

Academic Affairs Council  
February 26, 2020

1. **AARC Impact Report**

M.E. McWilliam

M.E. McWilliam provided an update on the AARC, she said they perceive themselves as full time retention staff and are always thinking “what else might we do?” She would like to strengthen tie to professors, and make the AARC more visible. Professors gets to select their own SI leader and their own type (SI or learning teams etc. ) A new initiative is posting on Instagram pics of AARC tutors with favorite professor. They also offer tours of the AARC. The top three courses the AARC provide assistance for are Chemistry, Math History.

2. **Curriculum Workshop**

Marc Guidry /John Calahan

Dr. Guidry is preparing a major curriculum workshop in early fall. He explained the number of curriculum changes in Curriculog has increased from 500 last year, to over 700 this year. The curriculum deadline was extended to fix problems, however we are continuing to receive new proposals. We must have meaningful deadlines, need to make them public and need to stick to them. There will also be best practices in scheduling workshop, which goes hand in hand with this topic. We are currently developing these trainings; for deans, associate deans and chairs as well as anyone who prepares schedules.

3. **Undergraduate Journal**

Pauline Sampson

Dr. Sampson introduced graduate student Alec Watson and Dr. Susan Reily who explained about the (URC) Undergraduate Research Club, they are working on the production of an Undergraduate Research Journal, electronic format in Scholar Works. They are looking for associate editors and reviewers to represent each college, additional information will be sent to the deans, they are asked to share with chairs and faculty.

4. **Showcase Saturday Update**

Erma Brecht

Erma reported on the most recent Showcase Saturday held on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 938 students pre- registered for the event, 620 student showed up (66%) as opposed to 508 last year. Including guests, there were 1582 attendees. We received positive feedback, particularly that students can connect with faculty/deans and staff. Our next Showcase Saturday is March 28<sup>th</sup>, this usually includes those students who have already received their offer letter and so they are making their final decision.

There was an opportunity for pictures with the president as well as Chief Caddo and it was a great success.

Dr. Bullard stressed that once we have CRM up and running, we will have more opportunities to manage flow of communication.

Erma in conjunction with marketing are finalizing the summer webpage, promoting all opportunities available. The message will be for students to utilize summer to get ahead or catch up. Incorporating everything from class schedule to housing incentives, summer

jobs on and off campus. This will be displayed on TVs in residential halls and across campus. An email and social media campaign will run through March and April.

Dr. Bullard said we should look at redefining the curriculum to allow students to finish in three years by taking classes in summer.

Erma also gave an update on Jacks Pass, they started communication in January to students that did not meet the admissions criteria, offering other opportunities.

**5. August Commencement**

Erma Brecht

Summer commencement will be on August 8, 2020 and because of construction we are unable to use the coliseum. We will hold this in the Student Center, Grand Ballroom and Twilight, the schedule is listed below (these will be sent to the deans and added to Academic Affairs webpage).

6. TIME	PARTICIPANTS	AUGUST 201940 * GRADUATES	AUGUST 201940 * PLANNED TO PARTICIPATE
9:00 AM	EDUC – SCED **	50	27
	EDUC - KINE	42	37
	FNA	17	14
	<b>Total</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>78</b>
12:00 PM	EDUC - ELEM	29	23
	EDUC - HUSC	27	23
	EDUC - HUSR	25	18
	FOR	18	15
	<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>79</b>
3:00 PM	BUS	96	80
	<b>Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>80</b>
6:00 PM	LAA	61	55
	SCM	31	27
	<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>62</b>

**7. Onboarding New faculty**

Marc Guidry

Dr. Guidry explained now that we are hiring a large number of embedded dual credit adjunct faculty teaching our courses at high schools, as well as meeting SACS requirements, we are providing onboarding/training modules through the People Admin system in HR.

8. **Budget**

Alisha Collins

Summer budgets are due to Alisha by March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5pm, using the new template.

Annual budget is due by April 6<sup>th</sup>, please advise Alisha of deans/Dr. Guidry's internal deadlines.

9. **Any Other Business**

Dr. Gordon stated at the cabinet meeting he would like to have online 8-week semesters available in the fall. Karyn Hall said there is a structure already available in Banner to accommodate an 8-week schedule.

Dr. Gordon also wants an update on how quickly we are moving degrees online. CTL will work to provide this information.

Dr. Bullard announced that the president has posted a "Chief of Staff" position, he did not have many details other than the position does not require new money.

The cabinet reviewed results from a recent outside survey about our students, on various issues. No official data yet, but initial results are quite startling about the amount of student debt. One area raised was that we should hire our own students, in the College of Business The Fenway Group are doing that.

Heather Catton announced they are keeping a watchful eye on the coronavirus and looking at avoiding financial loss. The ongoing situation is being monitored; looking at what other institutions are doing, such as purchasing travel insurance.

Dr. Himes reported that a Fine Arts event was livestreamed last night and was a great success. Dr. Wurtz said are able to livestream more events, providing lots of outreach.

Today at Rotary, Shannon Conklin from HCH Aviation will talk about an aviation program coming to SFA. A flight school is being established in Nacogdoches. They have been working with SFA to provide a degree to encompass the flight school. The degree will be housed in the College of Education, in Human Sciences. We have worked with a consultant on this project and looking at 10/15 students starting in the fall. Dr. Guidry explained the many of the major airlines are now requiring a bachelor's degree for pilots.

Dr. Murphy said the deans had met to discuss articulation agreements. Dr. Bullard reported he, Joe and Janet, had also discussed this issue with Dr. Gordon. Janet will be working on this, as there will be a major effort on transfer students and so articulation agreements are essential.

Reclassifications are due by March 9<sup>th</sup> and will only be funded with internal money,

The way office phone lines are budgeted may be changing.

DEANS ONLY

10. **Senate Bill 25**

Marc Guidry/John Calahan

Dr. Bullard stated there will be a much stronger focus on transfer students, Dr Gordon has been reaching out to community colleges. Dual credit is still important but we will be easing off and concentrating on transfers.

Dr. Gordon met with Dr. Head from Lone Star, Kingwood they will be visiting our campus and we want to involve multiple deans to see what programs align with ours.

Tomorrow Dr. Guidry and Dr. Shannon are looking at a facility in Center, regarding energy related fields, meeting with Major David Chadwick.

Dr. Guidry explained that SB 25 relates to transfer/academic progress of students. Specifically the report of non-transferable credit, we have to report to the State and will be held to a higher level of accountability. Therefore, we need to be more proactive responding to this senate bill.

John explained there are recommended course sequences (degree maps) listed in this bill. For each undergraduate certificate or degree program, there must be at least one recommended course sequence/pathway. He said we have multiple concentrations in each degree program.

John asked the deans to encourage chairs and program coordinators to develop sequences for all areas, that we can show the students.

Platinum Analytics uses the recommended course sequence to make predictions for upcoming term.

SB25 states these degree paths must be listed in two places; our general bulletin and a special place on our website. This is being reviewed.

Dr. Bullard announced there is a special called board meeting March 13, in Katy TX.

Dr. Bullard gave an update LANCAT data, there were some technical issues running analysis with new TCCNS numbers. Hopefully this is now fixed and should be complete early next week. Hoping to have summer on LANCAT by end today.

*Attendees:*

*Steve Bullard*

*Sharon Brewer*

*Alisha Collins*

*Judy Abbott*

*Tim Bisping*

*Hans Williams*

*John Calahan*

*M.E. McWilliam  
Karyn Hall  
Mike Tkacik  
Lesla Beverly  
Pauline Sampson  
Brian Murphy  
Buddy Himes  
Kim Childs  
Marc Guidry  
Gary Wurtz  
Jonathan Helmke  
Anthony Espinoza  
Erma Brecht  
Lesla Beverly  
Andrew Lannen  
Rachele Garrett  
Alison Reed  
Amber Middleton  
Alec Watson  
Susan Reily  
Joe Shannon*